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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/253,638	02/19/1999	KEISUKE OGURO	1217-990257	5855

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12/03/2001

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EXAMINER

ZITOMER, FRED

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1713

DATE MAILED: 12/03/2001

12

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/253,638

Applicant(s)
Oguro et al.

Examiner
Fred Zitomer

Art Unit
1713



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Sep 17, 2001
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 2-7 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other: _____

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1.

This responds to the communication of September 17, 2001. All the rejections of record of claim 1 in the prior Office action are withdrawn in view of applicants' amendment and challenge to the taking of notice that repeated applications of metal complexes during metal deposition processes is generally known [Paper No. 10, page 4, second complete paragraph]. A modified rejection over Shahinpoor et al. and a new reference, Nidola et al., US 4,364,803, is given as stated below. No claim is allowed.

2.

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shahinpoor et al, WO 97/26039, alone or taken with Nidola et al., US 4364,803.

Shahinpoor teaches preparing polymeric actuators by conducting present steps (i) to (iii) [page 3, line 24 - page 7, line 18]. The options of changing the order and/or repeating steps corresponding to present steps (ii) to (iii) are disclosed [see e.g. page 7, lines 12-13; page 6, lines 8-11; page 5, lines 6-30; claim 82]. Nidola teaches controlling the amount of metal deposited on the surface of ion exchange resins during reductive deposition, i.e. present step (i), by repeating the step of adsorbing metal complexes [Abstract, paragraph 3; column 5, lines 1-14; Example 1].

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Shahinpoor differs from the instant invention by not disclosing that the step of adsorbing metal complexes can be repeated.

It would have been obvious to repeat the step of allowing an ion exchange resin to adsorb a metal complex because it is well settled that a result oriented variable implemented within the skill of the art to solve a known problem in a known process is obvious absent the showing of a new or unexpected result. *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215. In the present case it is generally known to regulate the amount of metal deposited by controlling parameters such as concentration, contact time, temperature, and the number of cycles.

In the alternative, it would have been obvious to control the amount of metal deposited on an ion exchange resin by repeating the metal complex absorption step because Nidola teaches the embodiment for depositing the same metals on the same ion exchange resins as Shahinpoor.

Applicant's arguments filed September 17, 2001 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The basis of said arguments is that Shahinpoor fails to teach repeating instant step (i) and that unexpected results have been obtained by the repetition. This is not compelling for at least the following reasons:

- the arguments are moot as they apply to the new grounds of rejection.
- one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that additional applications of metal would increase the amount of metal deposited.
- as noted in the prior Office action the present claim lacks limitations relating to coating area, coating thickness or concentration of metal complex solution. Absent such limitations the

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claimed process can not be said to afford unexpected results against thicker or larger coatings prepared by merely increasing the concentration and/or contact time of said solution.

- the alleged "unexpected results" are merely manifestations of properties known to relate to increasing the amount of metal.

4.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shahinpoor et al., US 6,109,852, the US equivalent of Shahinpoor '039, more clearly describes the invention of the reference.

5.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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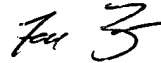
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Zitomer whose telephone number is (703) 308-2461. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful David Wu can be reached at (703) 308-2450. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 (before final) and (703) 872-9311 (after final).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2351.



FRED ZITOMER, PhD
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1713

Zitomer/fz
November 29, 2001